

RMP Objectives – Right-of-Way (ROW) Management Additional Guidance and Data Gathering Suggestions

Land Use Decisions. Designate ROW Corridors for the public lands which currently accommodate existing authorized ROWs, consistent with the goals, standards, and objectives for natural resources within the planning area. In addition, designate new ROW Corridors for inter-state and intra-state ROW distribution and energy producing facilities necessary to meet current and 10-15 year demand forecasts for ROW commodities (including power lines, pipelines, wind energy, communication, and other facilities). Designate ROW Use Areas for broader non-linear areas to accommodate ROW facilities within high intensity use areas; such as mineral development areas, rapidly expanding community growth areas, mountain-top communication site locations, and potential wind energy resource development areas. ROW Corridors and ROW Use Areas are preferred locations for the siting of ROW facilities as explained in BLM Manual 2801.11 and .12. Identify, as necessary and appropriate to particular alternatives, ROW avoidance and exclusion areas for areas with special or sensitive resources (e.g., proposed ACECs or RNAs, WSAs, etc.).

Management Considerations. For the ROW Corridors and ROW Use Areas proposed for designation, the consideration of the following items are suggested as an aid to formulating planning decisions:

1. Types of ROW facilities to be allowed;
2. ROW activities to be allowed or restricted;
3. Non-ROW activities to be allowed, restricted, or prohibited within the proposed ROW Corridor or ROW Use Area;
4. Non-standard or administrative (i.e., resource protection) terms and conditions to be applied to specific ROW facilities that may be subsequently located within the ROW Corridor or ROW Use Area; and
5. Ancillary facilities and “perpendicular” access needed to efficiently gain access to the ROW Corridor or ROW Use Area.

Intergovernmental/Organizational Consultation. As appropriate, in addition to any plan-specific consultation requirements, FOs should consult with the following organizations for advice and counsel regarding the need for and location of designated ROW Corridors and ROW Use Areas when developing land use plans:

1. State Public Utility Commission;
2. Public Utility Commissions from the appropriate adjoining states;
3. The Western Utility Group;
4. The Western Systems Coordinating Council;
5. Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association;
6. The Inter-State Natural Gas Association;
7. The American Wind Energy Association;
8. Major regional or sub-regional utilities (investor owned); and
9. Any regional or sub-regional Public Utility Districts.

Data/Consultation Needs. All Field Offices (FO) should use the following data sources when identifying ROW Corridors and ROW Use Areas for possible designation:

1. The Western Regional Corridor Study (1993 Edition, located in all State Offices and available on the BLM internet site at www.blm.gov/nstc);
2. The Western Governors Association, August 2001 Report, Conceptual Plans for Electricity Transmission in the West (available on Western Governors Association internet site at www.westgov.org);
3. Wind Power Classification Ratings (especially Class 4 and above) from the American Wind Energy Association and the U.S. Department of Energy, Wind Energy Program to facilitate identification of potential wind energy resource sites (wind power classification maps are available on the Department of Energy internet site at www.rredc.nrel.gov/wind/pubs/atlas/maps); and
4. Statewide electric power and natural gas requirements identified by the State.